(c) whether it is also a fact that the terror attacks in Mumbai has affected the tourism industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January-November 2008 is estimated at 4.84 million, which is higher than the FTAs of 4.48 million during January-November 2007. However the growth rate in FTAs during January-November 2008 over the corresponding period of 2007 is only 8% as compared to growth rate of 14.8% in FTAs during January-November 2007 over the corresponding period of 2006. The lower growth rate in 2008 may be due to various reasons including the global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

Floods affected areas

2471. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the floods affected areas in the country has increased in independent India;

(b) how much amount has so far been spent to control the recurrence of floods; and

(c) how much damaged in monetary terms caused by the floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir. Based upon the data available from 1953 to 2007, there is no trend in the increase in flood affected areas in the country.

(b) As per the report of Working Group on "Water Resources" for Eleventh Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs.12362.60 crore has been spent upto the end of Tenth Five Year Plan on flood control.

(c) As per the information received from various States, the total flood damages in monetary terms from 1953-2007 has been estimated as Rs.1,00,020.947 crore.

Pending irrigation projects in Rajasthan

2472. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to approve irrigation projects of Rajasthan lying pending with the Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date and the reasons causing delay therein; and

(c) by when these pending irrigation projects are proposed to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present, 7 new major and 7 new medium irrigation projects of Rajasthan are under various stages of appraisal out of which, 7 projects (4 major and 3 medium) have been found acceptable by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry

of Water Resources on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects subject to certain observations which are to be satisfactorily complied with by the State Government so that the projects could be processed for investment clearance by the Planning Commission. Details of the above 14 projects are given in the statement (See below).

(c) The time taken for completion of appraisal process depends on the promptness with which State Government of Rajasthan complies with the observations of the Central Appraising Agencies.

Statement

Details of Pending Irrigation projects in Rajasthan

A. Projects Under various stages of appraisal

1. Pipalda lift irrigation project
2. Indira lift irrigation project
3. Parwan irrigation-cum drinking water supply project
4. Hatiadeh irrigation project
5. Andheri irrigation project
6. Rajgarh irrigation project
7. Manoharthana irrigation project

B. Projects accepted by the advisory committee subject to certain observations

1. Utilization of Yamuna water in Bharatpur district
2. Utilization of Yamuna water in Jhunjhunu and Churu districts
3. Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (Extension, Renovation and Modernization)
4. Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (ERM)
5. Piplad irrigation project
6. Takli irrigation cum drinking water supply project
7. Gagrin irrigation project

Water management between India and Nepal

†2473. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Committee has been constituted to consider water management between India and Nepal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.